

ER 6-3226/a

card
General Julius Ochs Adler
The New York Times
Times Square
New York, N. Y.

Dear Julius:

I regret taking so long to answer your letter of November 26 regarding some OSS film that Mr. John Horton of Universal Pictures Inc. has been trying to obtain. I wanted, however, to have all the facts in this matter looked into again.

Based on the results of the review I have given instructions that the OSS film in our custody be examined and all that pertains to the military, and which has no security value, be turned over to the Department of Defense for such use or disposition as that Department may determine. Consequently, Mr. Horton should make arrangements with Defense to obtain the film he wants.

With the Season's greetings and a reminder that I am always home if you should get to Washington.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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O/DCI/[] an (17 Dec 54)
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DATE: 2003/1 REVIEWER: []

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16 December 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR

Recommend that you reply to General Adler's letter to the DCI in line with the decision made by the Director today which I have transmitted by memorandum to DD/P, a copy of which is attached hereto.

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STANLEY J. GREGAN

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16 December 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Plans

FROM: Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT: Relinquishment of Unclassified OSS Film

This memorandum confirms my telephone conversation of today.

The Director asked me to transmit his decision regarding OSS film in CIA possession.

He desires that all OSS film in Agency custody be reviewed and all that pertains to the military and which has no security value be turned over to the Defense Department for such use or disposition as that Department may determine.

In this connection John F. Horton, Washington Representative of Universal Pictures Company, Inc., has for months been trying unsuccessfully to secure some color footage of landings at Salerno and Sicily by the Third Infantry division for use in a forthcoming picture starring Audie Murphy. Mr. Horton states that E. B. Adams, Naval Photographic Center, has learned that 28 rolls of 16 mm. Kodachrome, uncatalogued and filed under an OSS code, is in CIA possession and that he, Adams, has been in touch with CIA film section to get this for the Navy, which in turn would turn it over to Mr. Horton. It is contemplated informing Mr. Horton, through Julius Ochs Adler who has intervened in Horton's behalf, of the Director's decision re disposition of OSS film.

Encs. [redacted] of the Graphics Registry, OGI, have some knowledge of the Horton request and where the footage is located.

STANLEY J. GREGAN

DCI/[redacted]

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Add
1 - DCI
1 - DE/I
1 - IG
1 - DD/A
1 - [redacted]
2 - Signer

ER 6-3226 A

3 December 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

My recommendation in the matter of Mr. John Horton's request for OSS motion picture film of the Salerno landings remains unchanged: The request should, under no circumstances, be granted. As to General Adler's letter, I should like permission to telephone Adler, whom I know personally, in order to explain the problem to him.

My reasons are as follows:

1. Mr. Horton has so stated the case as to cause General Adler to imply that I am guilty of a "miscarriage of justice." I should like to set the General right in this regard.

2. I am sure that if I explained our policies regarding the release of government property to commercial firms, General Adler would agree with our stand on Horton's request.

In addition to considerations of established policy as affecting this particular request, I suggest as pertinent considerations the following:

a. Horton has shown scant respect for CIA in the many approaches he has attempted since being given a polite official refusal of his request, and especially in his approach through General Adler where he goes so far as to imply that CIA is turning him down for political reason having to do with the late Democratic administration. This innuendo is not worthy of comment; it is foul and false. It might be of dubious wisdom to encourage Horton in possible future maneuvers of this sort by granting his request at this point as a result of the pressure he has brought to bear.

b. The precedent we should establish in granting Horton's request would, in any case, work to our eventual detriment. Unless we expect to be able, in the future, to grant all requests of this type, we should do much better to hold our ground firmly now in spite of some possible slight embarrassment, in order to avoid the much greater embarrassment that would face us after the precedent had become firmly established.

c. With respect to OSS material in particular, there is reason for special caution. Although OSS records are now so old as to have lost much of their original reason for classification, most of them could not be released to the public now or even many years hence. It is not always easy to make the public see this point, however, as was proved lately in the [redacted] case where newspaper men insisted, prior to [redacted] confession, that we must release his alleged OSS records. Other problems of this type will obviously arise where OSS records will be wanted which we cannot give out; yet cannot furnish reasons for withholding, satisfactory to the requestor. In order to provide for this contingency, our safest ground would be to adopt a policy, ab initio, of releasing no OSS records at all.


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d. We have turned down NBC (Phillips Lord) who made request through the State Department for permission to go through OSS film files to gather "official" film for a spy series.

e. We turned down CBS (Eric Sevareid) who wanted all "anti-Soviet" film we could furnish for use on TV.


STANLEY J. GROGAN

ODCI/SJG:nhh

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Enclosures:

Letter of J.O.Adler to AWD, Nov. 26

Letter of E.G.Shelton, Jr. to Gen. Adler, Nov. 21

Memo for Gen. Adler from John Horton, Nov. 19

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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

Colonel Grogan concurs in the attached reply.

*The Anzio and Salerno films will
be delivered to the Dept. of Defense
Monday.*

17 Dec 1954
(DATE)

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